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See p2



CENOTAPH DEFACED

By Paul Giles

southend@yellowad.co.uk

COUNCIL leaders have condemned the actions of vandals who defaced a major memorial to brave Southend residents who lost their lives in the two world wars.

Leader of the council Ron Woodley said the Southend Cenotaph is a significant monument which is part of the history of the town.

Cllr Woodley said: "It stands in continual tribute to the men and women in our borough who made the supreme sacrifice and shows they will never ever be forgotten."

"The people who have so recklessly damaged it have shown massive disrespect – not just to the families of those honoured by this memorial – but to everyone with relatives who laid down their lives in the service of their country."

"We are horrified that this ugly graffiti has scarred our Cenotaph, just weeks away from

Remembrance Sunday.

"It is even more tragic that the vandals have struck just as the Cenotaph was undergoing conservation works to coincide with the centenary of the start of the First World War."

"This was specially planned to ensure it would be preserved in the best possible condition for many generations to come."

"We have contacted police about this act of destruction and will do our utmost to make sure those responsible for such a despicable act will be brought to justice."

"The tag is clearly visible, so I would urge anyone that recognises it or knows who did this to report it to police."

"In the meantime, this graffiti will be swiftly removed and the Cenotaph renovation programme will continue ready for Remembrance Sunday."

Anyone with information about the vandalism should contact Essex Police on 101.



VANDALISM: The tag sprayed on the Cenotaph

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Fake police officer cons woman out of £5,000

A WOMAN has had more than £5,000 stolen from her by a bogus police officer.

Essex Police has now released an efrit (see far right) of a man who went to her home posing as a courier for the police to pick up money.

The incident is one of the latest in a series of crimes in which mainly elderly or vulnerable people are targeted and tricked into revealing their bank details or handing over large sums of cash.

A man posing as a Met Police officer phoned the woman, who was in her 60s, on Monday, September 8, and said that thieves had infiltrated her bank account.

He said as part of the investigation the woman should give police her bank cards, PINs and also cash for forensic examination.

The suspect pictured in the efrit was then sent to pick up the cards from the woman's home.

He also took £1,800 in cash, claiming it was needed for forensic investigation.

The woman was then contacted the next day by the man claiming to be the officer the day before asking for another £1,800.

The same courier was sent around to pick up all of the money.

Investigating officer DC Jon Holden said the crime was appalling.

● Turn to page 10



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Competition

Enjoy some Hallowe'en wizardry at Marsh Farm

MARSH Farm's Wizards and Witches event will be entertaining your little monsters all day, every day, from October 25 to 31.

Join Cello the wizard as he searches the farm for missing potion ingredients for his trick or treat spell, take a seat for some storytelling with Winifred the Witch and try your hand at the spell-makers challenge trail.

You can also enjoy pumpkin carving, with a free pumpkin for each child, and try your hand at some spooky craft activities.

They will also be adding a freaky twist to some of their farmyard favourites so don't miss the Monster Magic and Mayhem Show, the Spooktacular Birds of Prey Display, Ghoulish Championsheeps LIVE and Get Freaky with the Flock with Shaun the Sheep.

Alongside all the usual fun of the farm you can also stay late and join in fun activities after hours including the exciting Twilight Parade and Monsters Ball (special ticketed event open 6pm until 8pm on October 30 and 31 only).

There will be so much to enjoy during your visit this



half term you will be pushed to fit it all in.

For further information or to book tickets online including normal admission tickets for just £9.99 and Monsters Ball tickets for £7.99 visit www.marsh-farm.co.uk/witches-and-wizards

To win one of 10 family tickets to the event just answer the following question.

Q: On what day is Halloween celebrated each year?

A: October 29

B: October 30

C: October 31

To enter the competition telephone your answer – A, B or C – to (0901 307 1689) along with your name, address, telephone number and email.

Alternatively text YASPOOK (space) followed by A, B or C, and your name, full address and email to 63333.

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mobiles will cost considerably more. Texts cost 50p plus your standard network rates.

If you do not wish to receive details on any other products or services, please text EXIT at the end of your message.

Lines close on Monday, October 20, 2014.

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Super childminder Sam scoops national award

Love a bug – Thurrock

“Essex Action” – as heard on Southend Radio – with Volunteer Centres Essex

Today we are looking for volunteers in Thurrock to help a charity which is devoted to saving Britain's rarest tiny animals, from bees to beetles, worms and woodlice.

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So they need volunteers for work parties and events, or just to have fun at nature parks in the Thurrock and Grays areas.

If you love the outdoor life, care about conservation and have a passion for wildlife, this is a great way to do something positive with your time.

So why not do your bit to make a great habitat for our bug life.

To find out more contact Laura at the Volunteer Centre in Thurrock on 01375 389853.



TOP OF THE MINDERS: Sam McKenna

Photo by Martin Dalton

A CHILDMINDER who goes above the call of duty has won a national award for her work.

Sam McKenna, has won the title of Childminder of the Year in the Nursery World magazine's award scheme.

The 32-year-old was nominated by parents of the children who she minds when they contacted her Professional Association Childcare Early Years Network Development officer, Samantha Collinson.

Samantha also thought the mother-of-two deserved the award for dealing with an Ofsted inspection at the same time as moving home – and finishing her level five childcare degree.

Ms Collinson said Sam provides

a setting that is inspirational and exceptional. She said: “It nurtures and develops children in her care and supports working families.

“Sam doesn't normally like a lot of attention, but on this occasion, she really needs to know how many lives she has impacted and how special she is.”

Speaking about her award Sam, from Southchurch, said she was shocked to have been nominated.

She said: “I really love this job. I started out as a nanny, so it was a natural progression to go on to qualify as a childminder.

“It was a real thrill to receive the award.

“It's a team effort really because I receive a great deal of help from the council's Early Years Team.”

In describing Sam's award, Nursery World magazine said Sam was absolutely passionate about childminding.

It said: “She goes out of her way to help families support children in her care.

“When one parents' car broke down hours before a planned holiday, Sam drove the family 100 miles so they could enjoy their vacation.

“She also regularly drops parents to appointments if they don't drive, and always makes sure she accommodates families' needs, even if it means working longer hours.

“Parents say that Sam, who has worked as a childminder for four years, is like a second mum to their children.”

➤ speedread

Crews called to derelict office block

FIREFIGHTERS were called to a derelict office block in Victoria Avenue, Southend, on Tuesday, October 7.

They were called at about 6.30pm after people had reported seeing a fire on the fourth floor.

Crews put the blaze out by 7pm using two hose reel jets.

OAP in blaze

A PENSIONER was left needing oxygen therapy after a fire in her flat.

Crews were called to the smoke-logged flat at 7.30pm on Friday, October 10.

A pressure fan was used to clear the flat and the elderly woman was left in the care of the Ambulance Service at 7.50pm.

Flat fire

SEVEN fire crews were called to a fire in a flat on the ninth floor of a block of flats on Tuesday, October 7.

Crews reported the flat was heavily smoke-filled when they arrived but there was no fire.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus ventilated the flat and it is believed a candle caused the smoke.

Driving hazard

POLICE are urging drivers to be aware of flooding and surface water on many of the counties roads following heavy rainfall.

Emergency services were dealing with a number of fallen trees and flooding on Monday

The force has advised people to check travel websites and listen to local radio reports for any travel disruption.

Officers also warned people to slow down when driving through deep water.

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EXHIBITION SPACE: The Forum Gallery is looking for artists for next year
Photo by Martin Dalton

Gallery on hunt for artists to showcase

THE FORUM Gallery Space is looking for a new programme of exhibitors for 2015 and 2016 so it can showcase some of the artistic talent in Southend and beyond.

The gallery is a large area located on the ground floor of the Forum in Southend.

Attracting both customers and students, the Forum caters to a wide audience who enjoy the Gallery as an area to relax.

With one curved wall leading the viewer in, and one flat wall at the rear, the gallery can be utilised for

one exhibition artist, or two at a time.

Well lit and spacious, exhibitors' works can be viewed in their best light.

Artists can apply in the whole gallery for £105 for three weeks, or half the gallery for £68 for three weeks.

If artists would like to apply, they can visit www.theforumsouthend.co.uk to download the application form.

For further information about exhibiting contact libraryevents@southend.gov.uk.

Sky ceiling lifts patients' spirits

THE radiotherapy department at Southend Hospital is exploring ways to improve patients' experiences with an art installation.

With a donation of £3,000 from Thames Mouth Lodge freemasons, the hospital has installed a sky ceiling in the reception area.

Sky ceilings are photographic illusions of real sky views that trigger a relaxed response for mind and body, transforming interiors into spacious and memorable environments for patients.

Radiotherapy service manager Nicola Greet said: "We always aim to make their experience at the hospital as calming as possible. When we became aware of sky ceilings and their calming benefits, we realised they could transform our radiotherapy reception area into a brighter and more welcoming space."

"The patients have been really positive about the sky lights and said it's nice to show that we are thinking of them."

The installation may not have happened without the help of members of Thames Mouth Lodge.

Member Peter Scott said every few years funds are raised to donate to a chosen cause.

He said: "We approached the charitable arm of Southend Hospital and offered our help."

"They suggested installing sky ceilings in the radiotherapy department, which appealed to our members, especially as some have had cancer."

"If the patients and hospital are happy, that's the most important thing - then it is money well spent."

Due to the positive response from patients, the radiotherapy department hopes to install more sky ceilings in other parts of the department, including motion skylights with moving palm trees and parrots.



SKY LIGHT: Peter Scott, back row, left, Dave Catmore and Dave Dann of Thames Mouth Lodge; front, radiotherapy services manager Nicola Greet and PA Sylvia Scholefield

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WRITE ON: Jo Overfield is opening Elsie's Place for writers once a month
Photo by Martin Dalton



Cafe owner on a mission to help struggling writers

A CAFE in Leigh is offering a helping hand to struggling writers.

Elsie's Place, in Leigh Community Centre, Elm Road, will be opening up to writers on the last Tuesday of every month so that they can have a little time to focus on their work.

The idea came out of the frustration experienced by the owner of the cafe, Jo Overfield.

Jo said she knew it could be hard to find the time and space to write.

She said: "I am starting them because I am a writer and have no time to write with a seven-day a week, full-time job, so want to give people a chance who find it hard to write at home or making the time to write, to use our space instead."

"It is also a good way to get new faces aware of Elsie's and what we do."

The first writing session will be held on Tuesday, October 28, between 4pm and 8pm.

What do you think? Write to Readers' Letters, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH, or e-mail letters@yellowad.co.uk

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Seafront kidnap victim left seriously injured

A MAN has been left with serious injuries to one of his hands after he was abducted on Southend seafront and then beaten up.

The 42-year-old was forced into a car, thought to be a dark coloured Rover, by three men on Marine Parade, opposite the Foresters Arms pub, between 3pm and 3.30pm, on Tuesday, October 7.

He was driven to an address in Hockley where he was seriously assaulted.

He needed hospital treatment for injuries to his hand.

Police said they do not believe the case is linked to the attempted abduction of a woman on October 2.

DC Layla Barker urged anyone with information to come forward about the assault.

She said: "It was a pleasant day and there would have been numerous passing cars and pedestrians about on Southend seafront at the time he was forced into the car."

Anyone with any information should call DC Barker at Southend CID on 101 ext 470161 or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Efit appeal as man attempts to abduct woman

LIKENESS: The efit of a man who tried to abduct a woman in Southchurch



AN efit of a man who tried to abduct a woman has been released by detectives.

A 20-year-old woman was walking along Stornaway Road, Southchurch, at 6.20pm, on Thursday, October 2.

As she walked past a man standing by a black car he grabbed her wrist and attempted to push her into the vehicle.

The woman ran off after a man and woman passing by shouted at the would-be abductor.

Police would like to speak to the pair who shouted at the man as they may have information to help the investigation.

Investigating officer PC Keith Draycott said: "The incident left the victim understandably shaken up and I ask the public to take a good look at the efit."

Anyone who recognises the man is asked to call PC Christian Forbes at Southend CID.

➤ speedread

● **WORK** has started to improve the new Tesco junction on the A127 at Southend. Plants and small trees were removed last Thursday and Friday so that work can start on October 27.

Councillor for public protection, waste and transport Martin Terry said it is imperative to improve the important road junction and boost access to Southend.

He said most trees were planted when the roundabout was initially installed in the 1990s and under the council's policy for tree removal, each one taken away will be replaced by another two.

He added: "We would advise drivers to allow extra time for their journeys in case of delays caused by temporary lane closures."

For more visit www.bettersouthend.com.

● **A POP-UP** ceramics exhibition is open in Leigh Broadway. It is the second pop-up exhibition run by students from Southend Adult Community College.

Students from the ceramic department have progressed to a professional standard creating exclusive pieces for sale. The exhibition runs until Thursday, from 10.30am to 5pm, at the Faux Gallery.

● **A LIFEBOAT** crew launched a rescue mission on Saturday at 3.45pm for a 30ft motor boat with two people on board which had broken down west of the pierhead. It was towed to Canvey Island Yacht Club.

● **SOUTHEND Vintage Fair** is on Sunday at the Chase Sports Centre, Prittlewell Chase, Westcliff, from 10.30am to 4pm.

There will be a variety of music and dancing, fashion, accessories, homeware, furniture and art. Entrance is £3 for adults and £2 for OAPs and students. Entry is free for accompanied children.

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Our life during wartime

AN arts organisation has been awarded a £47,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project about the First World War.

PinpointCreate will use the money to complete Southend WW1: Remember Us.

The series of events will focus on Southend as it viewed the events taking place around the war and how it shaped people's life in the town.

Drawing on theatre skills and story-telling, the project will show the changing role of women in the town during the conflict and feature exhibitions in Southend museums.

A professional theatre company will be formed and a performance will be written by Tony Michaels and directed by Mike Dodsworth both from Pinpoint.

The lecture theatre of the Beecroft Gallery will be transformed into a music hall stage which will be the setting for the

theatre performances.

Mary Ann Connolly, creative director at PinpointCreate, said she was happy to be working with Southend museums.

She said: "This is a project which will bring to life the fascinating history of Southend through the real lives and experiences of the people who lived in the town."

"It is very exciting to be able to create a performance space in the Beecroft and we can't wait to work with local schools and help them tell their stories."

Councillor for enterprise, tourism and economic development Graham Longley said the museum service was happy to be working with the organisation.

Cllr Longley added: "This project will be a really significant addition to the ongoing programme of events taking place across Southend to commemorate the centenary of the start of the Great War."



Artist 'looking forward' to returning to his roots



MEET: Martin Huxter is at the Beecroft Gallery on Saturday

PEOPLE visiting the Beecroft Gallery will get the chance to meet the artist who has painted portraits of descendants of some of Vincent Van Gogh's models.

Martin Huxter, from Great Wakering, first exhibited the pieces when the Beecroft opened in the old Southend Library, in Victoria Avenue, Southend.

They caused such a stir at the launch that he will be returning on Saturday, between 10.30am and 4pm, to discuss the project with visitors.

The work includes The New

Potato Eaters, which shows three generations of the family related to Gordina de Groot, the original model for Van Gogh's famous painting The Potato Eaters.

He said some of the models for his pictures attended the launch of the relocation of the Beecroft last month.

He said: "I am very much looking forward to returning to my roots again. This 'meet the artist' event gives me a chance to explain the paintings in more details and give a bit of the background to the project which actually began in 2001. It

will be very informal."

Councillor for enterprise, tourism and economic development Graham Longley said: "We are very lucky that such an accomplished artist as Martin will be available to meet people visiting the gallery and we hope as many people as possible take advantage of this opportunity to speak with him."

Huxter was educated at King Edmund School, Rochford, and his fine art studies began at the former Southend Technical College in Carnarvon Road.

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GRATEFUL: Joyce Long with some of the items in her charity sale



Gift helps Joyce raise cash after bike theft

AN ELDERLY man with £25 in a brown envelope has restored fundraiser Joyce Long's faith in human nature.

He had heard someone had stolen a bike from the 85-year-old's garden sale for Southend Hospital and gave her the £25 she had said it was worth, which helped her to reach her £3,100 total.

Joyce, who has already collected more than £1.5million for charity, held one of her twice-yearly sales in the garden of her Benfleet home last week.

"I was upset to think anyone could be so callous. After all they were not stealing from me but

from the hospital," she said.

"But I was so touched by the gentleman who gave me £25. He said he had read about the theft in a local newspaper, and didn't want the charity to lose money because of it," added Joyce, who received an MBE for her charity work.

"I was very pleased the way the sale went. We had some very good moments.

"The lady who bought the mother-of-pearl accordion I had on sale played it – and three of us had a little dance around the garden."

The proceeds from the sale will go towards the latest keyhole cancer treatment service at Southend Hospital.



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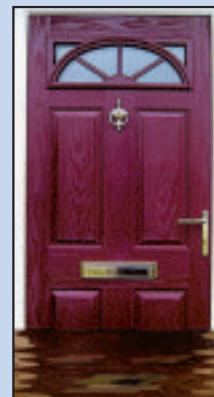


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Extra cash to tackle flood risk

FLOOD-HIT Canvey is to get an extra £500,000 to help prevent the devastation wreaked on the island in July from happening again.

Then a freak storm left four inches of rainfall in an hour-and-a-half and flooded more than 200 homes, streets were awash and cars submerged as drains and gulleys could not cope. Water could not soak away. Essex County Council is paying the cash to clean gullies twice a year so rainwater can flow freely into drains.

Canvey councillor Ray Howard, also a member of the regional flood forum, welcomed the news.

"Although no drainage system could have coped with the July storm, this money will help us make sure our drainage system is the best it can be."

Clr Dave Blackwell, who leads Canvey Island Independent Party, said: "It's good news we are getting more money, but there is a great deal more to do."

County council leader David Finch said: "This year alone our support for flood recovery and prevention on Canvey is more than £600,000. That is a sign of our commitment to alleviating the trauma and inconvenience that flooding causes."

The county council has provided more than £120,000 in rebates to people who had to leave their homes because of the flooding on July 20.

Bogus policeman

From front page

He said: "Despite taking bank cards and PINs which they used to take £1,400 and stealing £3,800 in cash they also tried to trick the victim into paying money into another account."

"Luckily she refused to do so and told a relative who contacted police."

"These fraudsters do sound genuine when they first contact their intended victims and they try a range of different stories to fool their victims."

"But police would never ask you for your bank details or ask you to transfer or withdraw funds."

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Hospitals and private firm in pathology services deal

A PARTNERSHIP to secure routine pathology services at two hospitals has been launched.

Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust have formed a joint venture with private laboratory Integrated Pathology Partnerships (iPP).

The new service will keep pathology services local to both hospitals to ensure an efficient service for patients who require tests to find out the nature of their illnesses.

The collaboration will also deliver investment in new equipment and see urgent and routine work separated to ensure high-priority patients get results quicker.

A new central hub will be built to process and report routine work, including tests requested by

GPs and from outpatient clinics.

There will also be two 24-hour rapid response laboratories on each hospital site to cover urgent tests in the accident and emergency departments.

In a joint statement, Basildon Hospital chief executive, Clare Panniker, and Southend Hospital chief executive Jacqueline Totterdell, said the venture would secure local pathology services for the future.

They said: "Combining our experience with iPP expertise in large scale clinical laboratory operations means that we will be delivering one of the most innovative and efficient pathology services in Britain."

The service will continue to be lead by consultant pathologists, while the new hub laboratory will be completed by autumn 2015.

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Three men charged over knife killing

DETECTIVES investigating the killing of Hassan Mohammed have charged three more men with his murder.

Mr Mohammed, 24, of Camberwell, south east London, died in Southend Hospital on July 8 after he was stabbed in York Road, at 7pm the day before.

A post-mortem examination revealed his cause of death was a result of two stab wounds he had received.

Danzel Bhebhe, 21, of Inverness Avenue, Westcliff, and Simbarashe Zemura, 18, of Kursaal Way, Southend, appeared before magistrates in Chelmsford, on Thursday, October 9, charged with murder.

Vasile Iftinca, 40, from Southend, is also facing one charge of murder.

He was also charged earlier this month with attempting to pervert the course of justice.

All three men have been remanded into custody.



DEAD: Hassan Mohammed died from stab wounds

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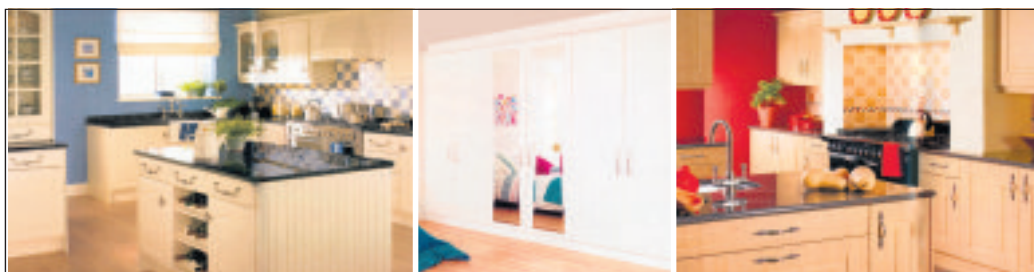
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Opinion and readers' letters

Parking precedence out of order

"*QUIS custodiet ipsos custodias*". If the cops are guilty of wrongdoing, who will run them?

The issue arises from arrangements made by the council to regulate parking in the hospital area. They have two different traffic regulation orders (TROs), and in doing so they must comply with a Department for Transport requirement to give fair treatment to those competing for kerb space.

Under pressure from petitions made by residents, the council gave precedence to parking by residents. Visitors to the hospital received short shrift. Such precedence was a breach of Section 87 of the Traffic Management Act.

The drafting of the TROs was a disgrace. If a resident no longer required a parking permit for which he had paid £15, he could seek a refund. The TRO very generously provided a refund of £21750.

The council became aware in July 2012 that the TROs had failed to include necessary legal authority, for the collection of parking charges. At this stage the council should have called a halt to the collection of parking charges and remedied the TRO defects. It did not do so and continued to collect parking charges without

legal authority, so that by April 2014 the total sum collected unlawfully exceeded £204,000.

Section 2 of the Fraud Act applies to someone who has dishonestly made a gain by misrepresentation. The police have a duty to investigate such matters and take whatever action may be necessary.

Faced with a misbegotten sum of £204,000, they should have leapt at the chance. At first they were quite enthusiastic at holding the council to account, but following the receipt of misleading information from the council, they decided not to pursue the question of fraud because of the difficulty of identifying individual parking payments. Such reason does not appear to be a mitigating factor in the fraud act. So what should be done now. It is not open to the council to continue with a TRO that results in breach of section 87 of the Traffic Management act. There is also a problem with double yellow lines which do not conform to statutory requirements. Back to the drawing board.

In keeping with DFT requirements, a fresh start is needed for those taking children to local schools.

Leonard Alfred Spencer
Southend

NHS in a deep crisis

THE news that Southend Hospital is facing a £20m

black hole in its budget is shocking but hardly surprising.

Over the last few years, the National Health Service has been put under tremendous pressure. The challenge of dealing with increasing demand at a time when its resources are being squeezed.

It is, then, worth remembering that David Cameron promised back in 2010 that the NHS budget would be ring-fenced and guaranteed, a promise which has proved worthless as the health service has seen a real-terms fall in its funding.

The NHS is in crisis, and Tories have ably demonstrated that they cannot be trusted with it. Meanwhile, Labour, which created the NHS, have pledged to boost funding, including £2.5bn to recruit and train 8,000 new GPs and 20,000 new nurses.

Matt Dent
Southend-on-Sea

Funding according to faith

REGARDING fairness in funding faith schools, if Southend Council were – hypothetically – to offer children the opportunity to have free music lessons and perhaps provide an instrument, I would not object.

Inevitably, there would be a limit on the number of places. If the council stipulated that

children from a Sikh, Hindu, or Buddhist background were offered places as a priority with the remaining places offered to children from a Christian background, eyebrows would be raised.

Budding young Mozarts from non-religious backgrounds would stand little chance. It is reasonable if religion X wished to finance music lesson for children whose parents are X.

When deciding about children's future, remembering their much-improved life expectancy, it is worth considering that the Census Organisation predicts that this country will be a secular society by 2041.

Geoffrey Licence
Westcliff

Flooding caused by rain shock

SO the powers that be have found that the flooding on Canvey Island in July was caused by the deluge of rain.

In truth this was caused by the council/country council over-building on the island without updating the infrastructure. The whole of the

Island as we know can come to a standstill if there is any accident on the roads, and now the amount of rainfall that we had has shown that the drainage system cannot cope.

Forget the amount of rain that fell, yes it certainly did rain, but with the large amount of houses built within the last five to 10 years and with the building work still going on it can only get worse.

Let's stop all new builds until we have another road and the drainage system is updated.

COUNCIL ARE YOU LISTENING?

Ian Umpleby
Canvey Island

British arms policy driven by profit

THE British government's own rules state that it should not allow weapons to be sold where there is a significant risk that they might be used for internal repression or in violation of international humanitarian law.

Yet we have witnessed the deplorable scenes of protesting Hong Kong students being attacked with tear gas made

and sold in the UK.

Foreign secretary Philip Hammond contemptuously commented that is was 'immaterial' that the tear gas originated here and he refused to rule out further exports.

This week the Campaign Against the Arms Trade has instructed its lawyers to begin legal action against the government over its failure to stop arming Israel. It is my belief that the standards British arms controls claim to set are hampered by the drive for profit and can, therefore, only fail.

The UK has sold arms to Bahrain, Libya, Saudi Arabia and many other repressive regimes around the world.

This country has sold weapons with total disregard to the human rights record of the buyers and only revoked licences at times of crisis, often when it is already too late.

In July, the Parliamentary Committee on arms export controls reported that: "the Government's arms export policy is essentially one of reacting to events and not taking sufficient account of the nature of the regime concerned at the point when the decision is made to approve the licence or not."

Bob Chapman
Canvey Island

■ We welcome letters and e-mails on all subjects. Please keep them to fewer than 250 words and include your full name, address and daytime telephone number, wherever possible, for verification. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. Contributions may be edited for reasons of space. Write to: Letters To The Editor, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH or e-mail us at: letters@yellowad.co.uk

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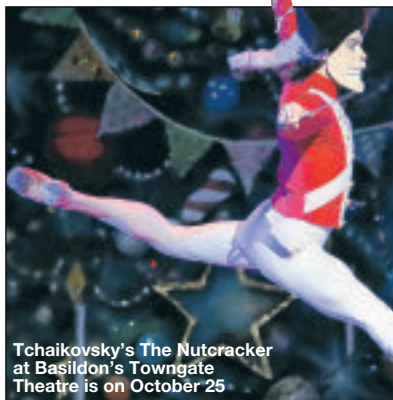
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Barretenders

Swan Lake comes to the Cliffs Pavilion in March next year



Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker at Basildon's Towngate Theatre is on October 25

by LIZ WADE

ONE of the most popular ballets in the world, The Nutcracker, will be at Basildon's Towngate Theatre later this month.

The ballet, which is one of Tchaikovsky's most famous compositions, tells the story of Marie, a sad little girl whose godfather, Drosselmeyer, gives her a nutcracker doll as a present on Christmas Eve.

The doll magically comes to life and turns into a prince in this ultimate festive fantasy which will be at the Towngate Theatre on Saturday, October 25.

Be captivated by the Winter Wonderland, the Land of Snow and the scrumptious Land of Sweets where the Sugar Plum Fairy entertains like royalty

with festive dances in recognition of the prince's heroic defeat of the Mouse King.

The Russian State Ballet and Opera House have ensured this classical ballet remains just as spell-binding today as it was when it was first performed 120 years ago, and you will be surprised by how much of the music you will already be familiar with, such as The Spanish Dance, The Arabian Dance, The Russian Dance, The Chinese Dance, The Waltz of the Flowers and the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy.

If you miss this production of The Nutcracker then there will be another chance when The Russian State Ballet and Orchestra of Siberia visits Southend on two dates early next year as part of a tour of four classic ballets.

Russia's acclaimed ballet company will return to the UK from January to March with four of

the world's most beautiful and popular ballets with exquisite traditional productions – Swan Lake, The Nutcracker, La Fille Mal Gardée and Coppélia at selected theatres.

Formed in 1981, The Russian State Ballet of Siberia has become established as one of Russia's leading ballet companies. Based in the city of Krasnoyarsk, in central Siberia, the company is proud of its dancers who are highly acclaimed worldwide for their unique interpretation of both dramatic and comic roles, delivering performances of sincere emotional and dramatic integrity.

Since 2002, under the artistic directorship of Sergei Bobrov, leading dancers from across Russia have forged their skills and artistry performing an expanding repertoire of new works and productions of timeless classics.

● Turn to page 18

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Cinema



Michelangelo, Donatello and Leonardo

PA Photo/Paramount Pictures

Cowabunga!

**TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA
TURTLES 3D (12A, 101 mins)**

The adventures of turtle brothers Donatello, Leonardo, Michelangelo and Raphael began life in the mid-1980s as an irreverent comic book and rapidly spawned an animated TV series, a trilogy of films and a dizzying array of merchandise.

Turtle power has endured to the present day, including a computer-animated series on Nickelodeon.

It's no surprise then that Jonathan Liebesman, director of Wrath Of The Titans, has resurrected the heroes in a half-shell for the big screen.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles is an outlandish, action-heavy romp that remains faithful to earlier incarnations, condensing the characters' back-story into a snazzy comic book-style opening sequence.

Die-hard fans will enjoy the heavy whiff of nostalgia, but if Liebesman was hoping to indoctrinate a new generation, he has cowabungled it.

His film is incredibly violent, albeit bloodless, reducing two very young boys in my screening to distressed screams.

The lack of spilt blood is preposterous, especially when the turtles face chief villain Shredder, who sports armour festooned with blades.

Razor sharp projectiles

scythe through the air but miraculously don't nick flesh. Shredder by name but not by nefarious nature.

Leonardo (Pete Ploszek, voiced by Johnny Knoxville), Raphael (Alan Ritchson), Michelangelo (Noel Fisher) and Donatello (Jeremy Howard) grow up in the sewers of New York City.

They flourish under rat mentor Splinter (Danny Woodburn, voiced by Tony Shalhoub), who teaches Ninjitsu to his surrogate sons.

During one of the turtles' sorties above ground, Channel 6 news reporter April O'Neil (Megan Fox) glimpses the crime-fighters, who are preparing for war with hulking terrorist Shredder (Tohoru Masamune) and his army, the Foot Clan.

Leonardo, Raphael, Michelangelo and Donatello fear exposure so they track down April and spirit her to their subterranean lair. "It's our Fortress Of Solitude, our Hogwarts, our Xavier's Academy," whispers Donatello, piling on the pop culture references.

Once April learns of the turtles' noble quest to destroy Shredder, she pledges her allegiance and ropes in wisecracking cameraman, Vern (Will Arnett), and prominent businessman Eric Sacks (William Fichtner), who has publicly declared war on the Foot Clan in a televised speech.



Megan Fox as April O'Neal

PA Photo/Paramount Pictures

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles updates the characters for the modern era.

Thus Mikey has a penchant for cat videos on the internet and the three scriptwriters shoe-horn verbal references to films and TV shows with abandon: "Maybe she's a Jedi," whispers Mikey after April reveals she knows Splinter's name without an introduction.

The turtles are rendered through motion-capture performances and look rather creepy, but they somersault to perfection in action set pieces including a tumble down a snow-laden mountainside.

Alas, the hefty budget hasn't stretched to remedying basic continuity errors like when Fox's plastic heroine emerges from a downpour with dry, flowing hair.

Believe that and you'll lap up this bland turtle soup.

**Released: October 17
RATING: 5/10**

Stage

Tchaikovsky ballets come to town

From page 17

The soloists and corps de ballet are superb, delighting audiences with their breathtaking physical ability and dazzling costumes as each storyline unfolds to the live accompaniment of the Russian State Ballet Orchestra of Siberia.

The company comprises more than 40 dancers and 30 musicians and the 2015 tour will be their 13th visit to the UK.

As well as performing The Nutcracker at the Cliffs Pavilion on January 18, they will also be performing Swan Lake on March 1.

Swan Lake, the greatest romantic ballet of all time, is brought to life by Tchaikovsky's haunting and unforgettable score. From the impressive splendour of the palace ballroom to the moon-lit lake where swans glide in per-

fect formation, this compelling tale of tragic romance has it all, from Odile, the temptress in black tulle who seduces the prince by spinning with captivating precision, to the spell-bound purity of the swan queen, Odette, as she flutters with emotional intensity, the dual role of Odette/Odile is one of ballet's most unmissable technical challenges.

● For further information and tickets for The Nutcracker at Towngate Theatre, Basildon, at 7.30pm on Saturday, October 25, call the box office on 01268 465465 or visit www.towngatetheatre.co.uk.

For tickets to see The Nutcracker on January 18, 2015, or Swan Lake on March 1, 2015, at the Cliffs Pavilion call the box office on 01702 351135 or visit <http://southendtheatres.org.uk>.

Liz at Large

YA features reporter Liz Wade goes out and about with her boys



Audley End gardens ablaze with colour

THE recent unseasonably warm weather has stirred up something magical in the gardens at Audley End House as autumnal bursts of reds, browns, oranges and yellows have already set the grounds ablaze with colour.

With the full tinting on trees predicted to appear by October 30, and the house still open to visitors until Sunday, November 2, now is a fantastic time to visit the stately home in Saffron Walden, Essex.

Situated on a medieval Benedictine monastery site, the house and gardens at Audley End were among the largest and most opulent in Jacobean England, and a visit is like stepping back in history and retracing the footsteps of the Braybrooke family in the 1800s.

Explore their daily life in the house and the newly opened nursery, while appreciating the views the Braybrookes would have enjoyed when they retreated to Audley End each year for the harvest feast in late September, and remained there until spring when the London party season was reaching its peak.

The house was designed for autumn and winter use as there are plenty of fires, and even under-floor heating in the hall and ground

floor gallery, and it is known that Lord Braybrooke enjoyed grouse and pheasant shooting at Audley End in the autumn.

As well as the sight of the estate's strikingly beautiful trees, many from the late 18th Century, displaying their autumnal hues, there are a number of trees not to be missed including the cedar of Lebanon as you approach the house, the avenue of lime trees and the Howard oak, one of only two in the world.

Also waiting to be discovered is the organic walled kitchen garden where major harvesting takes place in the autumn, and the viney where the first bunches of grapes are ready to be picked from the Black Hamburg vines.

While the house closes to visitors at the end of the season after its last open day on November 2, don't forget you can still take an autumnal or winter walk in Audley End's tranquil gardens every weekend until March, with their 'gardens only' tickets, and enjoy some special events.

Future events include Gothic



CHANGING SEASONS: Audley End House

Photo by Robert Smith

Falconry on Saturday and Sunday, October 25 and 26, from 11am to 5pm, when you can see graceful hawks, elegant owls and fearsome falcons in flight and hear revealing tales of gothic tragedy and superstition; a frightening fairytales and spooky stories for kids event from 11am to 4pm from Monday to Friday, October 27 to 31, when fearless souls are required for a thrilling family adventure; and a Victorian Séance Tricks of the Trade event from 6-10pm on Friday, October 31,

and Saturday, November 1, for over-16s only, when you can immerse yourself in the Victorian fascination for the supernatural.

There will also be a number of festive events later this year including A Victorian Christmas, from 10am to 4pm, on Saturday and Sunday, November 29 and 30, when you can step back in time to the 1800s and experience the spirit and magic of a traditional yuletide celebration, traditional stalls and you can enter Father Christmas's

workshop in the stable yard; wreath-making workshops from 10am to 2pm, on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 2 and 3; and a carol concert from 7.30pm to 9pm on Thursday, December 4.

While some events are included in normal admission prices some have an additional cost and some must be pre-booked.

● For more information about Audley End House and Gardens, and events, visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/audley

You can read previous days out Liz and her boys have enjoyed by visiting www.yellowad.co.uk and clicking on blogs

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Saturday, October 18

- Chelmsford Citadel Salvation Army Band Concert at Thorpe Bay Methodist Church, 7-9pm, Free admission.
- Southend Symphony Orchestra, Salvation Army Temple, Hadleigh. Brahms, Liebeslieder Waltzes, Choir: Gaudeamus. Dvorak, Symphony No. 6. £9 per ticket, 01268 755005.
- Plays for Laughs present: Love Begins at 50, A comedy by Raymond Hopkins, Dixon Studio, Palace Theatre, Westcliff-on-Sea. 01702 351135, tickets £11.
- Salvation Army Temple Hadleigh, Brahms Liebeslieder Waltzes, Choir - Gaudeamus. Dvorak Symphony No. 6. Tickets available at the door. Tickets £9, Concessions £8, under-12s £1. 01268 755005.
- Transmission Meditation Workshop, Helliwell Room, Forum Library Southend 10-11.30am admission free.
- Rayleigh History Walk, 3pm from Rayleigh Windmill, Bellingham Lane, off High St, £2 pp, info: 01268 775328.
- Yugioh Club, you can play and trade yugioh, 120 Southend Road, St Catherine's Church Hall, Wickford, mini tournaments, 1.30-4.20pm. 07985 671289.
- Dads and Kids Club, The Megacentre, Rayleigh, 10.30am-1.30pm, free admission, games, activities, arts and crafts, for boys and girls five to 17 years with their fathers and father figures. 01268 779100.
- Saturday Morning Club, St Michael's Church Hall, Leigh Road, 10am-noon, entertainment provided by choirs, soloists, admission free, Inter-Church Caring for the Elderly and Disabled. 01702 437863.
- Meeting, Brush Strokes Art Group, Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh, 9.15am-12.15pm, new members welcome. 01277 627043.
- Different Strokes Exercise Class, St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend, for those who have had a stroke, 2.30pm. 01702 612509.

- Jazz Workshop, Southend Jazz Co-op, Hadleigh old Fire Station, Hadleigh 10am-1pm, £5 (concessions available).
- Flamingo Fairs Vintage and More Fair, The Churchill Room, Wanstead Library, 10am-4pm Free Entry.

Sunday, October 19

- Tea Dance, 1.45pm-4.15pm, at St Cedd's Church, Bridgewater Drive, Westcliff. Ballroom, sequence, Latin. All welcome 01702 618771.
- Hockley and District Horticultural Society trading hut, February through October, 10am until noon, for all your gardening sundries, membership £3, behind Hawkwell Village Hall, Main Road, Hawkwell.
- Jazz, Ron Spack's Dinner Jazz, Westcliff Hotel, Westcliff, 1pm. 01702 345247.
- Sunday School, Get on Board, The Ark, Hadleigh Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, SS7 2PQ, 11am-noon, ages three-10 years. 07585 601815 or 07967 913344.
- Quaker Meeting for silent worship and meditation, Quaker Meeting House, Dundonald Drive, Leigh, 10.30-11.30am.
- King's Church Southend at Blenheim School, off Blenheim Chase, Leigh, 10.30am-noon. 01702 523639.
- Greek Community of Southend and District, Church of St Barbara, St Phannourios and St Pauls, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff, 10am-noon. 01702 466435.
- Sunday Club, TGH Evangelical Church, Kiln Road, Thundersley, (ages three-12), Bible stories, craft, singing, 10.45-11.45am, no charge, details 01702 554904.
- Mojo Friendship Club, Travellers Joy, Downhall Road, Rayleigh, 11.30am, open to all, details Mo on 07757 658799.

Monday, October 20

- Sunshine Coffee Morning for parents in Graylands & Felmores area. Briscoe Community Centre, 9-11am. Free informative workshop, coffee, cake and creche. Call Dawn 07880 035968, or just turn up.
- Monday beginners, one, dance class, usually six-week course, ballroom, Latin American, Ashington and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. Info: 01702 546219/542349.
- Leigh Scrabble Club, 7-10pm. All standards welcome. Wesley Hall, Leigh Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. Just turn up or call Peter on 01268 727915.
- George Hurd Centre, Basildon, for the over-50s. Craft: 10am-noon, Taichi: whist 9.45-12.30, 10am-noon, art: 12.30-2.30pm, Choir: 2.30-4pm, indoor bowls:

- 2-4pm, £2, 01268 465854.
- Senior Citizens Club, Benfleet's No 1 Club, Richmond Hall, Benfleet, 1.30-3.30pm, entertainment, all welcome.
- Southend Christian Counselling Service, open to all, Mondays 5.30-7.30pm and Thursdays 2-7.30pm, call our 24 hour answer machine 01702 335252.
- Over-50s Keep-fit Classes, Fryerns Community Centre, details Pat 01268 770294.
- Over-50s session. Megacentre Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road, badminton and table tennis 2-4pm. £3.50 inc refreshments and equipment. 01268 773100.
- Activity Session for adults with special needs, 10am-12pm. The Megacentre, Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, £1 per session, no charge for carers.
- Duplicate Bridge, Balmoral Bridge Club, Highlands Methodist Church, Olive Avenue, Leigh (opposite Thames Drive), Mondays 1.15pm-4.30pm and Tuesdays 7pm-10.30pm, call Vernon on 01702 343611 or Tony 01702 520993.
- Duplicate Bridge, Thorpe Bay Bridge Club, 62 Southchurch Boulevard, Southend, non-members of all standards welcome, 2-4.45pm (no partner needed), evenings 7.30-10.30pm, call Danny 07843 771774.
- Weekly Craft Workshop, St Peter's Church Hall, Thundersley, Benfleet, 6-8pm, details Michelle 07730 582784.
- Basildon Players Amateur Dramatic Group, 8-10pm, James Hornsby High School, Leinster Road, Laindon, details Jeff Levy 07951 681582 or email join@basildonplayers.co.uk.
- Zumba, Pitsea Day Centre over-50s Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.15-10.00am. 01268 465432.
- Beginners Computer Course, Pitsea Day Centre over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 11am-1pm. 01268 465432.
- Club 60, Southend, various activities every weekday, 9.30-4pm, tea bar, non-members welcome, £2 day pass, details 01702 613562.
- Short Mat Bowls Club in Hadleigh, new hall all mod cons, four mats, Canvey Short Mat Bowls Club, details Kevin 01268 792433.
- Short Mat Bowls, Monday/Tuesday afternoons in Thundersley, beginners welcome, details 01268 779174.
- Indoor Short Mat Bowls, Pritwell Bowls Club, Priory Park, Southend, two mats available, Monday to Friday, new players welcome, details Ray 01268 777666.
- Indoor Bowls, George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, Mondays 2-4pm, Tuesdays 2.15-4.45pm, Wednesdays 1.30-3.30pm. 01268 465854.

- Whist, George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, 10am-noon, details 01268 465854.
- Senior Citizens Club, Ghyllgrove Centre, Butneys, 1.30-3.30pm, make friends, bingo, trips. 01268 293995.
- Pensioners Stall, York Road Outdoor Market, Southend, 8am-2pm.
- Evening of clairvoyance, Room 2, Paddock, Long Road, Canvey, doors open 7.30pm, admission £3, all profits donated to local charities, healing available after service 9pm, enquiries 01268 691922.
- Healing, in Basildon from 10.30am-4pm, qualified NFSS healers, no charge, all donations to local hospice, call 07956 353564 for an appointment.
- Development Healing Circle, Face Salon, Burdett Avenue, Westcliff, an understanding of spiritual healing and prayer, 8-9.30pm, details 07879 004744.
- Fitness Walking, from Leigh Tennis Club, Highlands Boulevard, Leigh, 7.15-8.15pm, details 01702 715509.
- Scrabble Club, Wesley Church Hall, Elm Road, Leigh Broadway, (opposite police station), friendly club, beginners welcome, no partner needed, 7-10pm, £3 inc tea/coffee, just turn up or call 01268 727915.
- Parent and Toddler Messy Play Group, Buttercup Club, St Michael's and All Angels Church, Sir Walter Raleigh Drive, Rayleigh, 9.30am and 11am. 01702 712150.

Tuesday, October 21

- Alzheimer's Society, cafe for people living with dementia, family, carers and professionals. Speaker from the Health Trainers. Shobury Baptist Church, Thorpedene Gardens, SS3 9JD, 01702 345156.
- Social Dance Class, with instruction, in ballroom, Latin American and sequence, 8.30-10.30pm, Ashington and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. Info: 01702 546219/542349.
- Table Tennis, 7.30-10.30pm, The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, £3.60 per session.
- Singles Friendship club for 55s and over, South Benfleet Social Club. Maureen 01268 692998.
- Weekly Craft Group, Oasis Coffee House, 189 Leigh Road, Leigh, 2.30-4pm. No charge or booking required. Emma 01702 471873.
- Willows Park Short Mat Bowls Club require new or experienced players. James Hornsby School, Laindon. First session free call or text Alan on 07952 043456.
- Tea Dance, 1.45pm at St Cedd's Church, Bridgewater Drive, Westcliff. ballroom, sequence, Latin. 01702 618771.

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what's on

■ Evening of clairvoyance, St Cecilia's Christian Spiritualist Church, 9 Lord Roberts Avenue, Leigh, 7.15pm, £2, enquires Anne 01702 556470.

■ Folk Music: The Hoi at Anchor Folk Club, Royal British Legion, 7/9 Northview Drive, Westcliff, 'Steve Tilston', 8pm, 01702 715111.

■ Tea Dance, Ashington Memorial Hall, Ashington Road, Rochford, ballroom, Latin and sequence, 2-4pm, 01702 584575.

■ Scrabble Club, meets at Hockley Social Centre (at rear of library) 6.30-10pm, first two visits free, also second Saturday and fourth Saturday of each month 2-5pm. All ages welcome, 01702 205910.

■ Meeting, Ladies Fellowship at the Salvation Army in Hadleigh, 7.30pm, any age, good speakers, chatter nights, outings, meals out and summer walks, 50p per week or annual subscription, just come along or call 01702 551470.

■ The Puffer's Club, Exercise Class for people with breathing difficulties, run by people with breathing difficulties, Ambleside Sports and Social Club, Ambleside Drive, Southend, 12.45-2.30pm, 01702 610050/466827.

■ Pathfinders Blind and Partially Sighted Group Fryers Baptist Church, Whitmore Way, activities and outings, Tuesdays 9.30am-2pm Fridays, 10am-2.30pm.

■ Evening of clairvoyance, St Cecilia's Church, 9 Lord Roberts Avenue, Leigh, 7.15pm, £2, enquires Anne 01702 556470.

■ The George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, yoga: 10-11am, sit down Yoga: 11.10-12.10, keep fit: 12-1pm, line dancing: 1.20-2.20pm, chess: 1.30-3.30pm, craft: 1.30-3.30pm 1.30-3.30pm, 01268 465854.

■ Singles Social Group, meets The Mews, Nelson Mews off Clarence Road car park, Southend, age group 50-plus, 8pm, 07970 432994.

■ Singles Friendship Club for 50-plus, South Benfleet Social Club, 8.15pm, details Maureen 01268 692998.

■ New and Nearly New Stall, outside St Martin's Church, Basildon, facing the gardens (if wet in church foyer), 10am-noon, 07970 432994.

■ Table Top Sale, Outpatients Foyer, Southend Hospital, 9.30am-3pm, Breathe Easy Southend, helping support people with lung problems, 01702 258661.

■ Carpet Bowls, Eastwood Community Centre, top of Morrisons car park, 1.45-3.45pm, (and Thursdays 3.30-5.30pm), no experience necessary, £2 per session inc tea, joining fee £5, first session free.

■ Bingo and Hoi, Wick Community Centre, Wickford, 1.30-4pm, details John

Clarke 01268 570575.

■ Top Cats Social Club, (Southend Menap), Castle View School, Meppel Avenue, Canvey, 7-9.45pm, for adults with learning disabilities age 25-plus, £2 per session, details 01702 341250.

■ Tuesday Luncheon Club, Inter-Church Caring for the Elderly and Disabled, Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff, for people living alone or with their carers, details 01702 478691/525141/340617.

■ Little Lunchers Activity Club, St Michael's Church, Rayleigh, 11.45am-1.15pm.

■ Vange Tots, The Vange Community Centre, Vange Hill Drive, Vange, 9.30-11.30am, admission £1, snack and drinks provided for all, 01268 498642.

■ Shoebury Flagship, Rainbow Children's Centre, Friars School, Constable Way, Shoebury, 1.30-3.30pm, health visiting team offering activities, advice and support for parents with babies and children aged up to five years, 01702 577656.

Wednesday, October 22

■ Belvedere Jazz and Music Club, The Chichester, Rawreth, London Big City Band and Crooner Billy Bootyard, 8-10.30pm, £10 on door, meals and lite bites from 6.30pm, 07850 607075.

■ Southend Anglo Italian Circle, 8pm, illustrated talk on the Prince of Painters: the divine Raphael, Leigh Centre, Elm Road, SS9 1SP, £4, 01702 712177.

■ Civil Service Retirement Fellowship, social afternoons, speakers, refreshments etc, Balmoral Community Centre Salisbury Ave, Westcliff, 2-4pm, 01702 342426.

■ Barn Dance Live music from Garlic Spread, Grand Ceilidh Club 8.30pm, Royal Naval Association, East Street, Southend, 01702 553622.

■ New Thundersley (A) Townswomen and Guilds are looking for new members to meet first and third Wednesday of each month, St George's Church Hall, Rushbottom Lane, South Benfleet 1.30-3.15pm, contact Norma 01268 794694.

■ TEDFAS (Thames Estuary Decorative and Fine Arts society) first meeting of new season, at The Freight House Bradley Way, Rochford, 10.30am and 2.30pm, visitors £5 for more info call 01702 479416 or 01268 771120.

■ Concord Ladies Club of Rayleigh, 1.30-3pm. Interesting speakers, social afternoons, some outings and a Christmas meal out. New members welcome, Caley Hall, Crown Hill, Rayleigh, 01268 743240.

■ Leigh Singles Social Club, 45-65s, Bellini's, London Road, Leigh. Check out

our website www.leighsingles.co.uk for further details.

■ Activity Session for children with special needs, ages five to 18, (term time only). The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh. Donation of £1 per session, siblings welcome.

■ Graham's Social Tea Dance, Richmond Hall, Richmond Avenue, Benfleet. Afternoon, of ballroom, Latin and sequence dances for dancers of all abilities. 2-4.25pm, over-18s, £4 per person, 01268 752473.

■ George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s. Keep fit: 10-11am, sit down keep fit: 10-11am, salsa/ballroom: 11.30am-12.30pm, sequence dance: 12.30-1.15pm, art: 1.30-3.30pm, indoor bowls: 1.30-3.30pm, £2, 01268 465854.

■ Barn Dance, Grand Ceilidh Club, Royal Naval Association, East Street, Southend, live music, 8.30pm. 01702 553622.

■ Indoor Carpet Bowls, St Edmunds Hall, Pantile Avenue, Southend, 2-4pm, details contact Olive 01702 309280.

■ Played Bowls Before? Come and try it at FS&S Club, Gardiners Close, Basildon, all-weather green, free coaching, regular club mornings, call Chris 01268 419831.

■ Breathing Exercise Group, run by Breathe Easy Basildon, Steeple View Memorial Hall, 1-2.30pm, if you have COPD or recently finished pulmonary rehab, call Honore 01268 574390 for details.

■ Leigh Singles Social Club, Bellini's, London Road, Leigh, for ages 45-65, 8pm. www.leighsingles.co.uk

■ Social Afternoon of Ballroom and Latin Dancing, Mill Hall, Rayleigh, 1.45-4.15pm, with Pat and Bob. 01702 544112.

■ Line Dancing Lessons, St Margaret's Church Hall, Lime Avenue, Leigh, 12.30-2.30pm, helping to raise funds for the church hall. 01268 281488.

■ Afternoon Tea Dance, Richmond Hall, High Road, Benfleet, (entrance off Richmond Avenue), large free car park, 2-4.30pm, £4 per person, includes refreshments, strictly over-18s. 01268 752473.

■ Health Walk, Canvey Sea Wall, 10.30am, meet Labworth car park, Canvey Island, details 01702 318121.

■ Meeting, Alanan, International/Worldwide Support Group for families, wives, husbands, friends of alcoholics and other addictions, 1 Sutton Road, All Saints Church, Southchurch, Southend, 7.30pm, all welcome (non-denominational).

■ Pulse Drum Club, St David's Church Hall, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, 3.45pm-4.45pm, £3 per session. 01702 540111.

■ Over-50s session. Megacentre

Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh. Badminton and short mat bowls 2-4pm, £3.50 includes refreshments and use of equipment. 01268 773100.

■ Activity sessions, The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, (term time only), for children with special needs aged five to 18, free admission, siblings welcome, details 01268 773100.

■ Palace Writers' Group, 7.30pm, alternating venues with the Palace and Cliffs Pavilion, open mic events and public readings, details Emily 01702 390472.

■ Meeting, Roche Art Group, St Teresa's Church Hall, located behind the church, 109 Ashington Road, Rochford, 7.30-9.30pm, visitors welcome, details Gill 01702 421737.

■ Advanced Computer Course, Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.30-11.30am. 01268 465432.

■ Over-50s Session, The Megacentre, Rayleigh, 2-4pm, badminton and short mat bowls, session price 3.50 inc refreshments and use of equipment. 01268 779100.

■ Duplicate Bridge, Highlands Methodist Church, Olive Avenue, Leigh, small friendly club, 7.30pm, details Hilary 01702 712501.

■ Parent and Toddler Messy Play Group, Buttercup Club, Leigh Community Centre, Elm Road, Leigh, 9.30am and 11am, 01702 712150.

■ Brentwood Buddies new social club for ages 40-60 at the Essex Arms, Warley Hill, Brentwood, 8pm. Contact Julie 07969071392 text or phone before turning up.

Thursday, October 23

■ Leigh-on-sea Camera Club, 2nd Colour Print Competition, judge: Phil Chatfield, 7.45-10pm, Leigh Community Centre, new members welcome, visitors £3 per meeting, www.leighcameraclub.co.uk.

■ Thundersley Gardening Association, 7.45pm at Swans Green Hall, Hart Road, Thundersley, please bring exhibits, entrance fee £3.

■ Carol's Jazz Crew at The Park View, Chalkwell Park, Westcliff-on-Sea, 01702 483900, 3rd Thursday of the month, 8-10.30pm Entry £5.

■ George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s. Line dancing: 1-2pm, computer £3: 1-3.30pm, indoor bowls: 2.15-4.15pm, bridge 9.30am-12.30pm, ceramics, 1.30-3pm. £2, 01268 465854.

■ Health Walk, Hockley Woods, 10.45am, parking in Hockley Woods car park, details 01702 318121.

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More than 1,500 restaurateurs witnessed its second triumph last year, during a ceremony at London's Battersea Evolution.

A record 40,000 public nominations were received for the awards, covering more than 2,700 restaurants.

The Maharaja was voted best in the South East and became one of the top 10 restaurants in the UK, in the final heats of the 'Oscars' of the UK curry restaurant industry.

Siraj Ali, owner of The Maharaja, said: "To be nominated again, as one of the top 10 best Indian restaurants in the country is certainly a dream come true.

"We are always here to ensure that our customers are given the best of everything, and their loyalty and enjoyment has seen the Maharaja rewarded for its pursuit of excellence in Indian cuisine and dining.

"We would like to say a huge thanks to our customers who have helped us reach the pinnacle of success in the industry."

The Maharaja is an Indian restaurant full of heritage, which offers unique and exotic Royal Indian cuisine in a traditional setting fit for a Maharaja.



The Ali family prides itself on providing excellence in cuisine, service and ambience for each and every diner, with authenticity and customer service at the very core.

Specialities include lobster, king prawn, salmon, trout and exotic freshwater fish from the Indian Ocean, including tilapia, while exciting new dishes include ostrich, venison, duck, whole leg of lamb and whole chicken.

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offer on its a la carte menu for restaurant diners from Sunday to Thursday - buy one starter and main course, or main course and dessert, and received another absolutely free.

There are also large party discounts and a resident DJ from Thursday through to Saturday, so you can start the weekend early. The Maharaja is also the perfect setting for Christmas celebrations and is already taking bookings for December, so anyone interested is urged to call for further information and book early to avoid disappointment. With a free three-course meal for the host for Christmas bookings of a minimum of six people, the Maharaja offers outstanding value-for-money this festive season.

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The restaurant is open from noon to 2.30pm, and from 5.30pm - 11.30pm, Monday to Wednesday from noon to 2.30pm, and from 5.30pm to midnight, from Thursday to Saturday; and from noon - 11pm on Sundays and bank holidays.

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GALLACHER'S Smokehouse Bar & Grill is now open for business after a 10 week refurbishment of their premises near Thames Drive, Leigh-on-Sea. Situated at 1743 London Road, Gallacher's is now serving authentic barbecued pulled pork, ribs, chicken and more, all of which are cooked in smokers imported directly from Oklahoma, USA. There's hand-crafted burgers too and mouth-watering steaks, chargrilled to perfection, as well as a great wine list, craft beers from around the world and beer and cider on

tap. What's more, the atmosphere is relaxed and casual, making it a great place to kick back and enjoy the taste of those southern American states.

Why not take your seat at Gallacher's now, at 1743 London Road, Leigh-on-Sea, just 50 yards from Thames Drive traffic lights. Reservations at the restaurant, Christmas bookings now being taken can be made by calling 01702 474611. Gallacher's is just what the area needed, and now it's here for your enjoyment.

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Open Christmas Day
From 12noon
5 Course Meal £29.95
A la Carte is also available

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Buffet £11.95
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Bookings now being taken for Christmas

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Advertisement feature

eating out

Award-winning chef leads the way

FINE traditional Indian cuisine and fantastic entertainment is on offer at Blue Chutney this Christmas.

The popular restaurant, at 31 The Broadway, Wickford, serves an extensive selection of fine traditional Indian cuisine, thanks to its award-winning chef, Kamrul Islam, who won the UK Curry Life magazine and the Bangladesh Caterers Association (BCA) awards in London last year.

As well as freshly preparing an extensive range of traditional Indian cuisines, Kamrul also serves a variety of specialities and recommended dishes that will suit a range of tastes and mouth-watering cuisine that includes Bombay sizzling tava, zinga delight and shashlik chicken masala.

Blue Chutney is not only the place to be to enjoy delicious food but it also the venue to enjoy a variety of entertainment including tribute nights. There will be nine fantastic evenings during the Christmas period including vocalist Kerry Smith on Saturday, November 1, for £22.95; Scott Elvis as Elvis on Friday, November 29, for £23.95; vocalist Toni Lee on Friday, December 5, for £22.95; solo singer Loran on Saturday, December 6, for £22.95; Ciaran James as Michael Bublé on Friday, December 12, for £24.95; vocalist Saski on Saturday, December 13, for £22.95; solo singer Elicia on Friday, December 19, for £22.95; vocalist Miss Morgan on Saturday, December 20, for £22.95; and



vocalist Andy Wood Mitchel on New Year's Eve for £34.95. All tribute nights include a delicious four-course set menu.

Alongside all this they will be serving a four-course banquet on Boxing Day for just £15.95 for adults and £9.50 for children under 10, which includes a Blue Chutney mixed platter for starters, followed by any dish of your choice from the main menu (king prawn dishes £3.95 extra), any side dish, and rice or bread. A four-course vegetarian option and English dishes are also available, while the restaurant will also be open on New Year's Day as usual.

Throughout the year diners are invited to party at Blue Chutney

thanks to its Drinks Promotion every Wednesday and Friday evening. Enjoy a starter, main course, side dish, rice or naan bread from the menu (king prawn £3.30 extra) as well as drink as you want for one hour and 45 minutes. You must book your table in advance to enjoy this offer, which costs £20.95 per person on Wednesday and £24.95 on Fridays.

Drinks include Cobra and Carling draught beer, wine by the glass, spirits – vodka, gin, brandy, and whisky – as well as Malibu, Baileys, Archers and soft drinks (excludes wines by the bottle and champagne, terms and conditions apply).

On Sunday and Thursday there is a five-course banqueting night to enjoy which includes one starter,

any one main course, one side dish and any one sundries, plus coffee, for only £9.95 on Sunday and £10.95 on Thursday. Again table booking is required.

The restaurant, which also offers a full takeaway service with free local delivery, is open from noon to 2pm and from 5.30pm to 11pm, Monday to Thursday; from noon to 2pm and 5.30pm to 11.30pm on Friday and Saturday; and all day from 1pm to 10.30pm on Sunday.

For further information or to make a reservation call Blue Chutney on 01268 763866, email bluechutney@hotmail.com, or visit the website at www.bluechutney.co.uk for the latest cabaret acts and menus.

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eating out

Beautiful country pub fayre

Advertisement feature

SET just a few hundred yards away from the River Roach is a beautiful country pub that is renowned for its quality food, warm welcome and great ales and beers.

The Plough and Sail, owned by the Oliver family, is a traditional pub that has a history dating back more than 300 years.

It has transformed itself over the years from a meeting place for the hard working crews of more than 30 oyster smacks that were based in Paglesham – a place that was known as the smuggling capital of the district – to somewhere for locals and visitors to gather and enjoy delicious food and outstanding service.

The pub, which has real log fires, has a variety of menus including a main that includes a range of starters such as Cornish crab cocktail, breaded squid rings, Scottish smoked salmon and sliced smoked duck breast with raspberry dressing, followed by a wide variety of main courses including double lamb chop, homemade lasagne and steak and kidney pie, and tiger prawns cooked in chilli and garlic butter.

A children's menu is available and those looking for something lighter will also find a range of omelettes and salads to choose from, as well as ploughman's lunches and sandwiches.

This is all on top of a selection of homemade sweets and a specials menu that is updated regularly and includes delicious dishes such field mushrooms topped with caramelised onion and brie, and



Moroccan-style lamb kebab.

The Plough and Sail, set in beautiful Essex countryside, can also cater for a variety of functions including weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and funeral wakes.

The beautiful beamed pub and

pretty gardens provide a great backdrop to any event, for which staff can cater for up to 100 guests.

Christmas menus are now available for bookings from December 3 and anyone interested is urged to call for further information and to

book early to avoid disappointment.

For further information about The Plough and Sail, in East End, Paglesham, near Rochford, or to make a reservation call 01702 258242 or visit www.theploughandsail.co.uk

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Spacious Semi Detached House. Kitchen/Diner. 2 Reception Rooms. 2 Double Bedrooms. Delightful Garden. Garage Space and Parking. Close to Tarpots for local amenities. EER E



LEIGH-ON-SEA £349,995

Character Semi Detached House. Sought After Location. Convenient for Westleigh Schools. 3 Bedrooms. 2 Reception Rooms. Sun Lounge. Fitted Kitchen. Cloakroom. Garage. Recommended. EER E.



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Delightful, Spacious, Character Detached House. Sought after area. Convenient for local Junior and Infants Schools, St Thomas More and Westcliff High Schools, Leigh Station and Belfairs Park and Golf Course. 3 bedrooms. Spacious Lounge/Diner. Fitted Kitchen. Sun Lounge. Bathroom/w/c/ Garage.



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WESTCLIFF £275,000

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Marine Estate, Leigh £975,000

An imposing detached house with an amazing 80' road frontage situated in a highly sought after location walking distance of LEIGH STATION and within the Westleigh Schools catchment area. Large double garage, in and out driveway with extensive parking. 80' x 66' rear garden, five bedrooms, en suite bathroom, 25' x 14' lounge with Inglenook fireplace, 18' x 14' 2nd lounge, 17'3 x 14'6 dining room, 25' x 12'6 kitchen, 20' x 12' conservatory.



3 bed semi detached house, Leigh £239,995

KEYS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING FROM 4TH OCTOBER - this very presented three bedroom family house with Off street parking, 75' approx rear garden, superb 24'8 x 12'8 Lounge / Diner, 11'4 x 9'8 luxury fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, three good size bedrooms, luxury bathroom, double glazing, gas c/h Ref etl5268



Luxury refurbished 5 bedroom detached house, Chalkwell Hall Estate £795,000

A luxuriously refurbished and fully detached five bedroom house situated on the eagerly sought after Chalkwell Hall Estate within walking distance of the beach and station. The property backs SOUTH enjoying far reaching ESTUARY VIEWS and has an impressive 80' rear garden. Stunning accommodation with elegant lounge, study, dining room- open plan to a superb 23' x 12' fully fitted kitchen, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, KEYS ARE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING. Ref etl5273

Town & Country team



60' Road Frontage, Leigh-on-sea £475,000 oiro

A unique opportunity to acquire this extremely attractive four bedroom detached chalet bungalow offering a wealth of charm and character both internally and externally. This wonderful home occupies an impressive 60' x 120' West backing plot with beautifully landscaped gardens, detached double garage and extensive in and out driveway. This is an extremely rare opportunity and early viewing is advised. Ref etl5264

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Leigh on Sea £320,000

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Leigh on Sea - OIEO £800,000

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B&B

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- * Upgraded shower room
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- * Garage and long driveway
- * No upward chain
- * EPC BAND E



NEW LISTING
SOLE AGENTS



LEIGH-ON-SEA £325,000

- Three Bedroom Detached House
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- Offering huge potential with many original features
- No onward chain
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SOLE AGENTS



HADLEIGH £320,000

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SOLE AGENTS



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- * En-suite to bedroom one



SOLE AGENTS



HADLEIGH £129,995

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- * Energy Efficiency Band D



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- * Three Bedrooms/ Two Reception Rooms
- * Close To Broadway & C2C Rail station
- * Energy Efficiency Band F



THUNDERSLEY £875 pcm

- * Stunning New Two Bedroom Apartment
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- * En Suite To Master Bedroom / Parking
- * Energy Efficiency Band B



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- * Decked Garden / Allocated Parking
- * Energy Efficiency Band C



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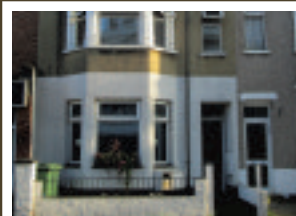
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**£265,000****Pine Road, Hadleigh**

An immaculate 3 bedroom detached chalet within a quiet residential area with views over the Salvation Army fields. The property benefits from a spacious lounge-diner, utility room, 3 double bedrooms and ample off street parking. The property is just a short walk from both Hadleigh town centre and Hadleigh Country park and falls within The King John School catchment area. This family home is well presented throughout and is offered with NO ONWARD CHAIN. Keys held for viewings. **Sole Agent**

FOR SALE

**£165,000****Castle Lane, Hadleigh**

Modern 2 bedroom flat in a central location. The property has been finished to a high standard and offers modern living accommodation, a fitted kitchen with integrated appliances and a modern bathroom suite. Keys held for viewings.

FOR SALE

**£199,995****Foxwood Court, Foxwood Place, Leigh-on-Sea**

We are delighted to offer to the market this spacious 2nd floor flat set within a highly sought after and quiet cul-de-sac location. The building backs onto woodland and Belfairs golf course and is located withing the West Leigh School catchment area. The property comprises of 2 good size bedrooms, a large lounge-diner, fitted kitchen and shower room. The property also comes with its own garage and communal gardens. Keys held for viewings. NO ONWARD CHAIN. **Sole Agent.**

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**£825,000****Orchard Avenue, Ramsden Bell House**

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We are pleased to offer to the market this spacious 2 bedroom flat in a central location offering excellent road and bus links. The property benefits from a large lounge, and large master bedroom as well as a fitted kitchen, bathroom and further single bedroom.

TO LET

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We are please to offer to the market this recently refurbished 1 bedroom maisonette offering excellent road and bus links. The property benefits from a spacious kitchen-lounge area, double bedroom, fitted shower room and a further room which could be used as an office.

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Eastwood £279,995

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Ashingdon £249,995

An extended superb two bedroom semi detached bungalow located in a very popular road, the property has been maintained to a high standard to include a modern high gloss fitted kitchen, a modern white bathroom suite, lounge and dining area, an approximate 90 ft south facing rear garden and upvc double glazing, off road parking and 26'9 garage. viewing essential.



Rochford £92,500

A one bedroom first floor retirement apartment overlooking the rear garden, the property is situated in a sought after block within Ashingdon, the property is located within access to local shops and bus route. no onward chain.



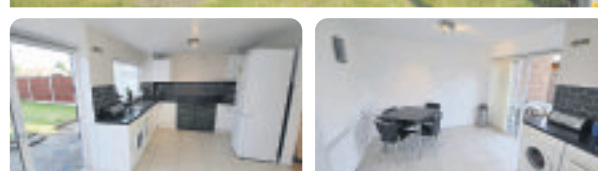
Hullbridge £334,995

A four bedroom detached chalet, located in the sought after village of Hullbridge. The property has been lovingly well maintained by the vendors and offers spacious accommodation and a well tended rear garden, off road parking and garage. viewing essential.



Great Wakering £229,950

3 bed semi detached family house. Complete with part integral garage and landscaped south facing garden. The property is within easy reach of local schools, shops and bus routes and worthy of an early appointment to view. The property is offered with no onward chain.



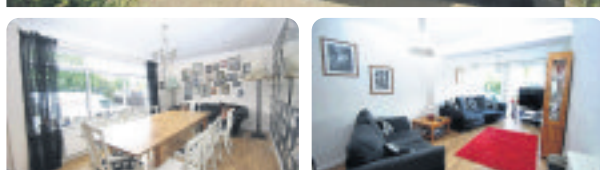
Ashingdon £234,995

A well maintained three bedroom semi detached house with a garage. The property benefits from a modern fitted kitchen diner, a modern white bathroom suite, gas central heating, double glazing and a unoverlooked rear garden, located in a popular residential location, close to local shops and transport links, no onward chain, viewing essential.



Rochford £214,995

2 bed semi house located in a central part of Rochford, a plot measuring approximately 27ft x 106ft with rear access via double opening gates. internally the house benefits from two good size bedrooms, a 4 piece bathroom, modern fitted kitchen diner and lounge, upvc double glazing.



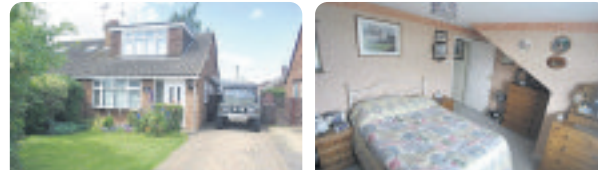
Ashingdon £279,995

Open House this Saturday 20th September just turn up and view between 12 noon and 13:00 - 253 Ashingdon Road, Rochford, Essex, ss4 1rs
A Superb three bedroom detached chalet located in a convenient location the property benefits from dining room 19'1, lounge, 21'4 kitchen / breakfast room 21'4, garage and off road parking, established well maintained rear garden, gas central heating and double glazing. VIEWING ESSENTIAL.



Southend On Sea £214,995

character cottage is situated within the heart of the Conservation area. FREEHOLD property boasts twin garages, one of which lends itself for conversion into further accommodation subject to the required building regulations and planning consent. TWO parking spaces



Rochford £234,995

2/3 bed semi detached chalet is well maintained throughout and is deceptively spacious. The property has the benefit of double glazing, fitted kitchen and a modern family bathroom. The lounge is 17' x 11'10 with a separate dining room/bedroom three and there is also study.

LETTINGS

Connect with us  



Rochford £750 pcm

A one bedroom ground floor Assisted living apartment, the property we believe was originally the show home and benefits from a spacious wet room with a window, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, large lounge / diner, bedroom with fitted wardrobes, situated in a highly sought after development which boasts many facilities which include a residents lounge, function room, restaurant with waitress service, video entry system. Positioned within close proximity of shops, bus links and mainline railway station.



Hockley £895 pcm

two bedroom house located in a very convenient location close to Hockley mainline station to Liverpool Street and the village centre. The property benefits from two good size bedrooms, fitted kitchen, recently fitted bathroom suite, good size lounge and a garage in a block.



Rochford £725 pcm

Situated within the popular assisted living complex is this one bedroom first floor retirement apartment. This development boasts many facilities which include a residents lounge, function room, restaurant with waitress service, video entry system. Positioned within close proximity of shops, bus links and mainline railway station. Available Now.



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ASK THE AGENT ALAN KIRKMAN

Q. The Autumn's a good time to move, right?

A. Probably one of the commonest questions estate agents get asked is "Is this a good time to put our home on the market?" It tends to crop up just around now, shortly after Christmas, and in the run-up to Easter. And, not surprisingly, it is generally followed a few weeks later by a closely-related question: "Is it worth putting our home on the market now, or should we wait until next (September/New Year/Easter)?"

Why is this? Well, these are the three times of year when the property market is traditionally said to be at its most active, and not surprisingly, people want to surf that expected wave of buyer interest.

But does this really stand up to scrutiny?

Well, let's take the autumn. September and early October do indeed normally enjoy quite an increase in property market activity. For many of us, this is a time of new beginnings, with people moving to new jobs, etc, while for those who are planning to move, it's natural to want to have it all done and dusted in time for Christmas, and before the worst of the winter weather makes the thought of moving house thoroughly daunting.

Similar, though different, cases can equally well be made for the post-Christmas and Easter periods. As with autumn, there is some logic to both of them. But, does this necessarily make any of them a particularly "good" time to put your home on the market?

Actually, timing is generally less important than you might think. For one thing, if it were that simple, we'd all be property millionaires! But in any case, you need to remember that the balance between supply and demand in the property market is largely self-adjusting - by which I simply mean that other things being equal, large numbers of hopeful buyers will automatically tend to attract large numbers of equally hopeful sellers.

The simple fact is that if your property is well-presented and well-priced, it stands just as much chance of selling during the summer holidays as it does in Autumn - or the New Year, or at Easter. So, my advice is always the same: forget about trying to read the runes, and just move when it suits you.

Or, to put it another way, there's no time like the present...



Alan Kirkman is a Director of both Tudor Estates in Southend and Essex TEAM part of a network of independently owned estate agents who share their instructions for the benefit of giving their client properties maximum market exposure. Alan has been an estate agent for over 32 years.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Robert Michael are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of **£245,000** for **26 Deerhurst, Benfleet, SS7 3TF**. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact **Robert Michael,**
65 Hart Road, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 3PB, 01268 753889, before exchange of contracts.

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3. the reasonable expected usage of such an item
4. the number and type of occupants in the property
5. the length of the tenant's occupancy

We'd say that there several points to make in addition to this very helpful guidance. Generally, you're not going to be able to claim for the full cost of replacing an item but merely a contribution towards its repair or replacement. Secondly, the type of tenant you have taken on makes a difference. So, if you've let the property to parents with kids or students, people with pets or smokers and that was recognized in the agreement, then you can't penalize tenants for behaving as anyone would reasonably expect them to.

Dealing with delicate edge-cases is a skilful balancing act. But try and be fair. Don't be a quibbler. Don't forget, your time is valuable too. If you spend several weeks, numerous phone calls and not a little stress quibbling over £50, then you're onto a loser



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Motoring News

Volvo's new vision for driving safety

By Mike Torpey

VOLVO has taken one of the final steps towards realising its vision that by 2020, no one should be killed or seriously injured in a new Volvo car.

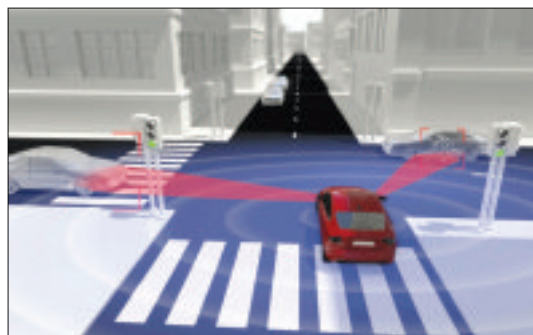
It comes via the development of a new safety feature that locates collision-free escape routes.

In December, the four-year Non-Hit Car and Truck project will draw to a close, leaving as its principal achievement the development of new sensor fusion technologies that provide a 360-degree view around a car.

A Swedish collaboration between academia, various institutions and industry, the Non-Hit Car and Truck project has focused on reducing accident risks for both passenger cars and commercial vehicles.

And one of its challenges was to build a detection system out of a number of discreet sensors installed around the car – something that's never before been accomplished.

It meant developing a sensor framework to enable technologies like cameras,



radar and GPS to share information efficiently.

The 360-degree view is enhanced by something called a manoeuvre generator, a new safety feature that uses software to identify collision-free escape routes in traffic.

The system, which works by constantly analysing threats around the car, can even assist drivers with auto-braking and steering.

Project manager Anders Almevad said: "Volvo Cars is definitely on the front line when it comes to innovative active safety research and development."

"And with the Non-Hit Car

and Truck project, we've taken a significant step towards realising the vision that by 2020 no one should be killed or seriously injured in a new Volvo car.

"The technology is also imperative for the development of self-driving cars, which will be able to automatically steer and brake to avoid collision with any object in any situation."

"Our primary objective is to focus on preventing different types of accident scenarios, but going forward we will also continue to work on developing cars that adapt to each individual driver's unique behaviour."



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185	55	R15	£39.00	185	55	R15	£48.00	185	55	R15	£63.00
185	60	R15	£41.00	185	60	R15	£51.00	185	60	R15	£60.00
185	65	R15	£41.00	185	65	R15	£51.00	185	65	R15	£60.00
195	50	R15	£38.00	195	50	R15	£50.00	195	50	R15	£60.00
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BAD DAY AT THE OFFICE FOR UTD

Southend United

Luton Town 2 Southend United 0
By Rowland Lyons
at Kenilworth Road

THE 'curse' of the Manager of the Month Award struck as Phil Brown's Shrimpers suffered defeat at the newly-promoted Hatters on Saturday.

Having lost to Morecambe the previous weekend, and with Brown having collected his award, he was let down by sloppiness at the back, as the Hatters bagged maximum points, from Alex Lawless and Mark Cullen first-half strikes.

Despite a bright start with Shaquille Coulthirst and Kevan Hurst causing the improving Luton problems down the flanks, it was poor defending that allowed Scott Griffiths a clear path to find the unmarked Lawless, who netted with a fine chip on 17 minutes.

Southend went totally 'flat' there-

after, but it took a misplaced Cian Bolger pass after 33 minutes to Andy Drury, who played in Cullen, to make no mistake from the edge of the box.

In what had been an instantly forgettable opening half, only Hurst forced Town's Mark Tyler into fumbling a wayward cross over his own bar to safety.

Later, admitting he had made mistake by omitting the livewire, Jack Payne from the starting line-up, Brown withdrew the ineffective Coulthirst.

Payne revelling in a seemingly 'free' role, almost - instantly - reduced the arrears, but the under-worked Tyler was quick to react and bravely saved at the schemer's feet.

Southend at least enjoyed a good 15-minute spell, but with the cushion of a two-goal lead, Luton packed their defence and the Shrimpers were restricted to long-range efforts.

An always competitive game reached boiling point when skipper John White appeared to be impeded taking a routine 70th minute throw-in. Assistant boss Dave Penney was then sent to the stands in what Brown claimed was for 'throwing an elbow' at a Luton player.

Brown admitted: "It was a bad day at the office but, no excuses, the mentality of the team wasn't right today. I'm not sure what that was down to."

"But, it was the manner in which we played in the first-half - full stop. We needed nous and experience out there today in front of nine thousand people."

"I think I made a mistake in leaving out Jack Payne and, yes, he was a dangerman and, yes, he did look like getting us a goal in the opening fifteen minutes of the second-half, but the damage was done."

"We must give great credit to Luton

Town. They're up there on merit - that's four on the bounce they've won."

"We've now lost back-to-back games and we didn't deserve anything today."

Payne added: "The two early goals 'killed' us - and they did a good 'job' on us. We didn't really turn up, to be honest."

Luton boss John Still said: "We scored a fantastic goal and got a bit of help with the other. I don't think anyone could say we didn't deserve to win against a very good side. I'm very pleased with the result."

Luton Town: Mark Tyler, Michael Harriman (Alex Lacey 90), Steve McNulty (captain), Luke Wilkinson, Alex Lawless, Scott Griffiths, Andy Drury, Jonathan Smith, Nathan Doyle, Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu, Mark Cullen.

Southend United: Daniel Bentley, John White (captain), Cian Bolger, Adam Thompson, Cian Bolger (Ryan Leonard 43), Jerome Binnon-Williams, Kevan Hurst, Conor Clifford, Will Atkinson (Jack Payne 46), Gary Deegan, Shaquille Coulthirst (Barry Corr 46), Myles Weston.

Attendance: 9,238

Non-league round-up

Cup magic for Canvey

by Brian Jeeves

THE Canvey FA Cup dream is still very much alive as both Canvey Island and Concord Rangers won their third qualifying round ties.

John Sands 10th goal of the campaign earned the Gulls a narrow 1-0 victory at Barton Rovers, while the Beach Boys had Steve Cawley (2) and Matt Fry to thank for securing a win over Winchester City at the Aspect Arena by the odd goal in five.

East Thurrock United are also in the hat after a 2-1 win over Tooting and Mitcham United, they are joined by Witham Town who won by the same score at Needham Market.

And there were goals galore in Chelmsford City's tie at Whitehawk. Michael Cheek and Joe Ward both grabbed a brace for the Claretts but they'll have to do it all again after the teams played out an incredible 4-4 draw.

However, the Wembley dream is over for Billericay Town. The Blues went down 1-0 to Weymouth at New Lodge in front of a good crowd of more than 400.

In the Conference Premier Division there was disappointment for Braintree Town as strikes from George and Bakayoko saw visitors Southport pick up a 2-0 win at Cressing Road.

In the Ryman Premier Division AFC Hornchurch picked up a useful point with a 1-1 draw with Bury Town at Bridge Avenue, Reece Beckles-Richard on target for the Urchins.

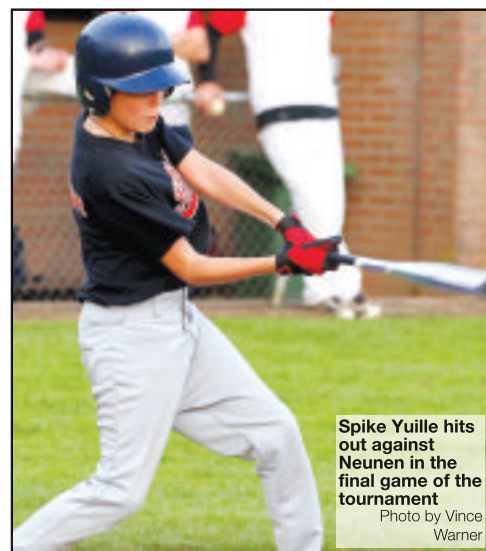
Meanwhile, there was plenty of action in the Ryman North Division. Great Waking Rovers picked up their first home win of the season. Tom Ranger's second-half goal was enough to see off Heybridge Swifts at Burroughs Park, while goals from Courtney White and Daryl Robson clinched Brentwood Town a 2-1 win over Brightlingsea Regent.

Thurrock thrashed Burnham Ramblers 5-1, but it was disappointment for Barkingside who went down 2-1 at home to Harlow Town. Steven Carvell the man on target for 'Side. But it was an afternoon to forget for Tilbury, who crashed 4-0 at AFC Sudbury, and poor old Romford who crumbled 8-0 at Wroxham.

In the Essex Senior League FC Romania hammered Basildon United 6-1, and 2-1 wins for Haringey Borough, at Hullbridge Sports, Barking, at Greenhouse London and Tower Hamlets, at Sporting Bengal United.

Ilford picked up a notable 3-0 win at Stansted, and Bowers & Pitsea took the points with a 2-0 win at Eton Manor. Waltham Abbey won a thrilling encounter with London Bari by three goals to two, while Enfield 1893 and Clapton played out an entertaining 2-2 draw.

Redbacks do well at international tournament



Spike Yuille hits out against Neunen in the final game of the tournament

Photo by Vince Warner

Baseball

ESSEX Redbacks concluded their competitive summer at the annual MEET Tournament, hosted by HSCN Neunen, in Eindhoven, the Netherlands.

And they got off to their best ever start at their fifth appearance at the tournament.

Trailing 6-5 heading into the final innings against the Old Rags, a travel team from Italy, second baseman Stuart Harper-Horn launched a two-run home run to give them the win in front of a big crowd under the floodlights on the main diamond.

Saturday was more of a struggle, coming up against some very strong teams from the Netherlands and Belgium, including one of the top teams in the professional Dutch league.

On Sunday, they took on the hosts Neunen to determine final placing, and after going ahead early they eventually succumbed to the more experienced opposition.

However, in a nod to the future, Spike Yuille and Calum Petit-Coombs, accompanying their dads Rob and Steve respectively, showed their skills in front of a number of top European players.

Manager Vince Warner said: "It was another fantastic weekend of baseball and softball and we're proud to be invited every year."

"The number of runs we scored is a club record over the weekend, and we're consistently getting better."

"We'll take the performances, the results and the fantastic enjoyment with us into the winter and we will be back in training come Decem-

ber, ready for next year's British season."

While the club now takes a few weeks off to reflect on the season, the Redbacks annual meeting is scheduled to be held in mid-November with indoor training for adults and junior players to resume sometime in December.

The club is also looking to run dedicated indoor softball sessions over the winter in order to enter a team into tournaments in 2015.

For more information about the Redbacks, the new facility or ways to get involved on or off the field, contact Sean Briscoe on: sean@essexredbacks.com or 07877 580474.

To keep up to date with all the goings-on at the club, visit the website at: <http://www.essexredbacks.com> or interact on Twitter via the handle @essexredbacks.

Saxons sink to heavy defeat as season gets harder

Rugby

Chinnor 42 Southend Saxons 21
SOUTHEND Saxons' poor start to the season continued at Chinnor where they were put to the sword by their Oxfordshire opponents.

The first-half was all Chinnor apart from a solitary penalty try from Southend. With a stiff breeze behind Chinnor they stormed relentlessly forward seeming to burst through the

despairing defence at will.

When Southend did manage some possession they lost the ball in contact or knocked on.

A half-time score of 30-7 to Chinnor had the game won, leaving Saxons with the only realistic hope of a four-try bonus point.

With players still missing it was always going to be long shot but they tried, oh how they tried.

Two tries and conversions in the

first 10 minutes of the second-half got them to 30-21, but then Chinnor stole the ball deep in their own half. With most of the Saxons upfield it was an easy stroll and touchdown. The conversion made it 37-21.

Despite gallant efforts from the Saxons they just could not make any headway. On one occasion they started an attack well inside the Chinnor half but within three minutes, without losing the ball and going through

eight or nine phases, they found themselves back in their own 20m line and running sideways. Driven there by continuous and aggressive tackling and cover from Chinnor who eventually turned the ball over.

Another try took Chinnor to a convincing win.

The Saxons are at home over the next two weekends with games against mid-table Worthing Raiders and Lydney.

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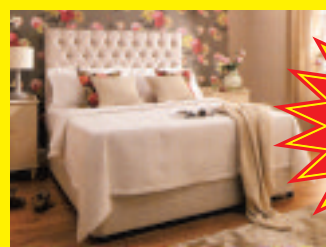
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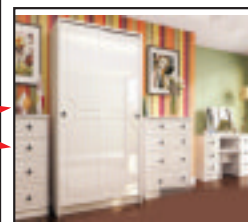
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Ofsted Grade 2
Maths & English - Good
Teaching & Learning - Good
Study Programmes - Good
Leadership & Management - Good
Outcomes for Learners - Good
Retail - Good
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In our most recent Ofsted Inspection we were viewed as giving 'outstanding' care, support, advice and guidance for learners.

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